August 17-21, 2026

Good Afternoon,
We look forward to seeing students this week as we kick off the 26-27 school year!
Have a wonderful Sunday evening,
Dr. Holder

Learning Schedule for the Week:
Monday-No school for students. Teacher PD Day.
Tuesday-Half Day for Freshman! Yearbook Picture Day for Freshmen
Wednesday- SCHOOL WILL START AT 7:50! NO LATE START. Blue Block Day. Yearbook Picture Day for 10-12 grade students.
Thursday-Silver Block Day
Friday-Blue Block Day

Important reminders for students/families to start the 26-27 school year:
Please be sure families have paid school fees prior to Tuesday.
Please be sure to put money on your student's lunch account if he/she will eat school breakfast or lunch.
Please be sure to discuss the no cell phone law expectations and consequences.
Be sure student laptop is charged and ready for the first day of school. (Please see attachment)
Ensure that both parents and students have created an account in Parent Square (This is the communication platform parents, coaches, teachers, and students will be able to use during the school day and beyond the school day.)
Per the cell phone law, students are not allowed to use headphones, airpods, or smart watches during the school day. Students MAY use WIRED headphones to connect to their computer.

Back To School Night: Thursday, August 27
On August 27 we invite parents to join us in our Back To School Night event. There is an OPTIONAL meeting at 5:30 in our PAC where we will discuss our goals for the year and our school improvement plan and other school related topics. Class rotations begin at 6 pm. If parents want to join us at 6 for the class rotation time, that is great! We will run a class schedule rotation from 6-7:30 pm with parents spending 5 minutes in each of their student's classes.

ATTENTION-Students enrolled in off campus programs:
As we get ready to begin the school year, I wanted to make sure everyone has the transportation information for our off-campus programs. Please read the information below carefully and make note of the bus number, departure time, and departure location for your program. No sign-up is required for CTEC or EDTEC transportation. The buses will run automatically for students participating in these programs. Please arrive a few minutes early so you are ready to board when the bus arrives.

CTEC – Morning Programs
Bus: #36
Departure Time: 7:50 AM
Departure Location: Bus loop on the Monticello side of Mill Valley High School

CTEC – Afternoon Programs
Bus: #14
Departure Time: 11:20 AM
Departure Location: Front of Mill Valley High School by the flagpole

EDTEC – Morning Programs
Bus: #17
Departure Time: 6:40 AM
Arrival Time: Please arrive by 6:35 AM
Departure Location: Front of the school near student parking and the front flagpole
KCKCC & JCCC Programs

Students participating in KCKCC or JCCC programs will need to provide their own transportation. There is no school bus transportation provided for these programs.

Yearbook Picture Link:
Picture Days are coming up on Tuesday, Aug 18 for 9th Graders and on Wednesday, Aug 19 for 10th - 12th grades! Order before Picture Day to receive free shipping to the school.
Order online at: https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry/0483HRF

Theater Auditions:
The Mill Valley Performing Arts Department will present the musical “Oklahoma!” this fall. There will be two workshops for any students who are interested in auditioning. At these workshops students will learn the songs for the auditions and hear specifics about the audition process. They will be held from 3:15pm to 5:30pm in the Little Theater on Wednesday, August 19th and Thursday, August 20th. Students may come to either or both. E-mail questions to jcopeland@usd232.org.

Community Partners Hub:
USD 232 is looking to connect with guest speakers, businesses, organizations, and community groups interested in supporting our students. If you or someone you know would like to partner with our schools through career exploration, classroom presentations, mentorship, internships, or other opportunities, we'd love to hear from you! Visit our Community Partner Hub to learn more and submit your interest: https://www.usd232.org/departments/academics/career-focused-learning/community-partner-hub.

Dress Code:
As everyone begins to prepare for back to school, just a friendly reminder that we do have an enforce a dress code at MVHS. This includes:
No Midriff tops
No hats
No clothing that promotes alcohol
No blankets
We would encourage families to review the FULL student handbook located on our MV Website. https://mvhs.usd232.org/parents-students/student-handbook

26-27 Parking Pass Sign up:
Below students will find the link to sign up for a parking pass at MVHS. As a reminder and due to our limited parking at MV, juniors and seniors will receive a pass, sophomore passes will be chosen by lottery AFTER all junior and senior passes are distributed. Due to very limited parking, we do not permit freshman to drive to school.
https://forms.gle/odbteNJ7Sjg1DTHZA

Physicals for the 26-27 school year:
This year, KSHSAA Physicals will be uploaded by families into BOUND for all of our student athletes at Mill Valley High School. Student athletes can now begin the registration process on BOUND for the 2026-2027 school year. Please see the attached graphic for instructions on registration. Uploading

your physical will be included as part of the registration process. All physicals must be dated after April 1, 2026.
If a family has circumstances that prevent the uploading of a physical, please reach out to amber.richter@usd232.org or bring the completed physical form to the building.
Physical paperwork can be downloaded at this website: https://mvhs.usd232.org/athletics

During the Day Cell Phone Update:
As part of our commitment to providing a safe, focused, and productive learning environment, USD232 has carefully reviewed the requirements of the recently enacted cell phone legislation (HB 2299). To comply with the law while supporting student success, the following expectations will be implemented for personal electronic communication devices during the school day.

SECTION 1: DEVICE EXPECTATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
Students may use personal electronic devices, including cell phones, earbuds, AirPods, smartwatches, and other communication devices, before the start of the school day.
Once the 7:45 a.m. bell rings and students are directed to report to class, all personal electronic devices must begin to be:
· Turned off
· Stored and inaccessible until end of school day (2:55 p.m.)

These expectations apply throughout the entire school day, including class time, seminar, passing periods, and lunch.
Students may use their devices before school, including during breakfast if they arrive early. They will also have access to their devices immediately after school to communicate with parents or guardians regarding transportation, athletics, extracurricular activities, or other after-school needs.

SECTION 2: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
Students and families will continue to have several communication options during the school day:
· Students may access ParentSquare on their district-issued devices (more ParentSquare info forthcoming!).
· Students may use a school telephone when needed.
· Parents or guardians may contact the school office when they need to communicate an important message to a student.

Violations will be addressed. Additional implementation expectations include:
· Staff members will enforce these expectations consistently.
· Offenses will remain cumulative throughout the school year.
· Refusal to surrender a device when directed by a staff member will result in additional disciplinary action.
·Exceptions will be provided as required by law and district policy (I.E. - specific medical, IEP, or 504 exceptions).

SECTION 3: CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS
The following consequences will apply when a student violates the requirements between the first and last bells of the day.

First Offense: The device will be taken to the office. The student may pick it up at the end of the school day.
Second Offense: The device will be taken to the office. A parent or guardian must pick it up during front office hours, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Third Offense: The device will be taken to the office. A parent or guardian must schedule a meeting with a school administrator before the device is returned to strategize around solutions and success moving forward.
Fourth Offense: The student may face consequences (including suspension) in accordance with district policy.
We recognize that these expectations represent a significant change for many students. Our shared goal is to create classrooms where students can fully engage in learning, minimize distractions, and build meaningful connections with their teachers and peers.
Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work together to provide the best possible learning environment for every student.

Father's Club Starting at MVHS:
Join the New Father's Club Chapter at Mill Valley High School!
We are excited to announce the launch of a Father's Club chapter at Mill Valley High School starting this coming school year!
Founded at a single high school in 2018, Father's Club has grown to over 50 schools across the KC Metro area. The organization is focused on creating simple, intentional ways for dads to stay connected and engaged with their KIDS, other DADS, and the broader COMMUNITY in a way that fits how dads operate.
How to Get Involved:
Informational Meeting: We are looking for local dads to attend an upcoming informational meeting in late August or early September.
Events: Stop by our Father's Club information table at August 11th (Jaguar Jumpstart) or visit us during the upcoming Back to School and First Look events to learn more.
Learn More Online: Visit the official website at fathersclub.org
If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions, please reach out directly to Brett Clark (816.885.3684) for more details.

OPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PURCHASE: Additional student insurance
Dear Parents/Guardians,
Because medical costs can be expensive, DeSoto USD 232 does provide families the opportunity to purchase student accident insurance on their student through Student Assurance Services, Inc.
This supplemental policy would assist with your out-of-pocket medical expenses (i.e. deductible) should your student sustain an accidental injury while coverage is in effect. Also, if you do not have any insurance on your student, this would be primary for accidental injuries. There is a variety of coverage options and premiums are a one-time payment for the school year.
Please review the short video link below as well as the attached forms regarding student accident insurance.
Student Accident Insurance - YouTube
If you have any questions about this coverage, please contact Student Assurance Services directly at (800) 328-2739.

Mill Valley School-Wide Spirit Store:
Please use the following link to access our Mill Valley Jaguars School Wide Store https://bsnteamsports.com/shop/gbSCEqKm2J. The store is live now and will close on August 14th.

Important Dates to Note:
August 18: Freshman FIRST (half) day at Mill Valley! Yearbook picture day for freshmen.
August 19: All students return START TIME IS 7:50. NO LATE START-Yearbook Picture Day for 10-12 grade.

August 27: Parent Back to School Night-OPTIONAL meeting for parents with Principal and other support staff starting at 5:30 pm in the PAC. Class visits begin at 6 pm. More information to come soon.
August 28: Mill Valley Night Lights! This event kicks off our fall football season starting at 6 pm at Jaguar Stadium.
September 7: Labor Day-NO school for students or staff.

Thank you,

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